CIPHER

Yuuko Narita

9

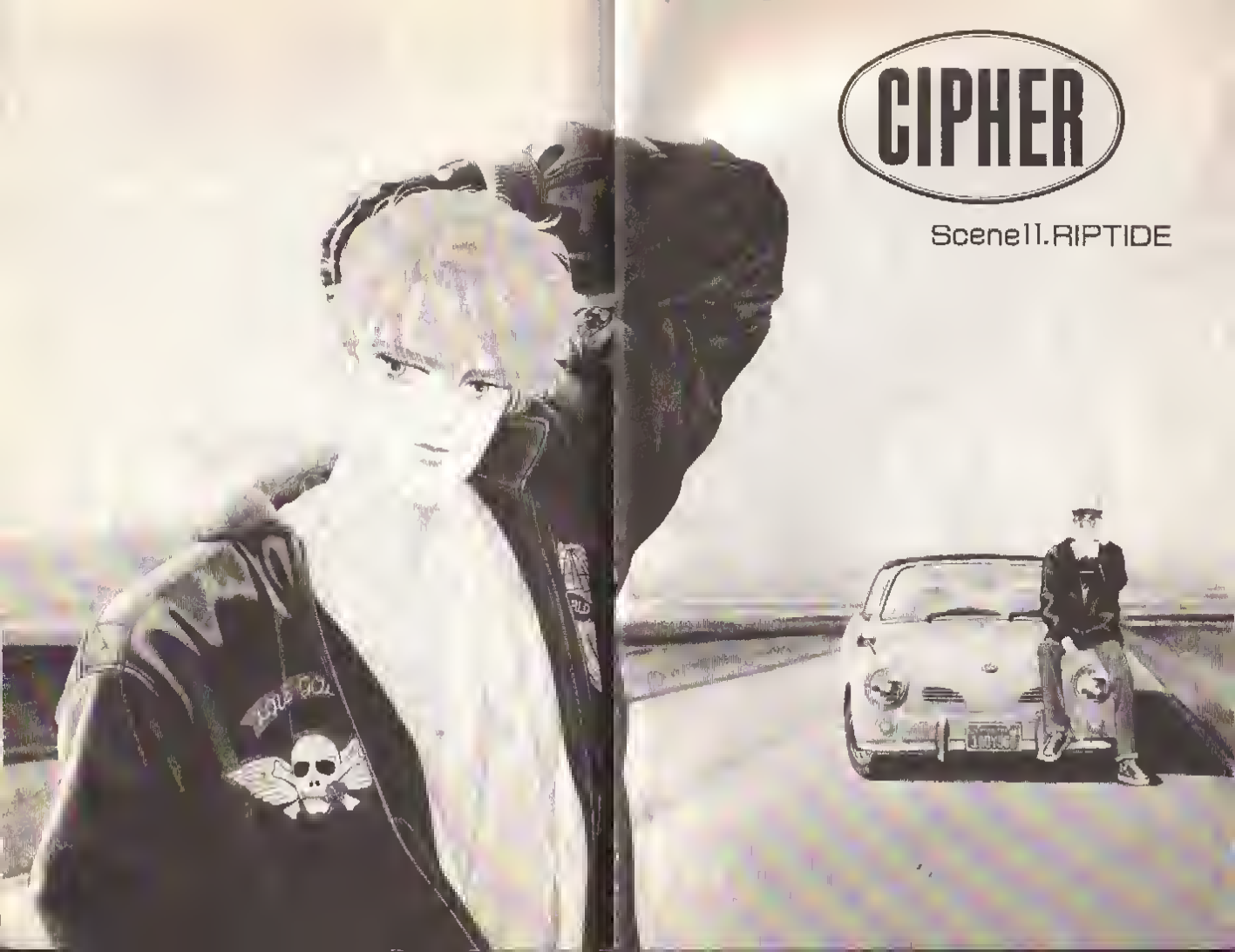
CIPHER

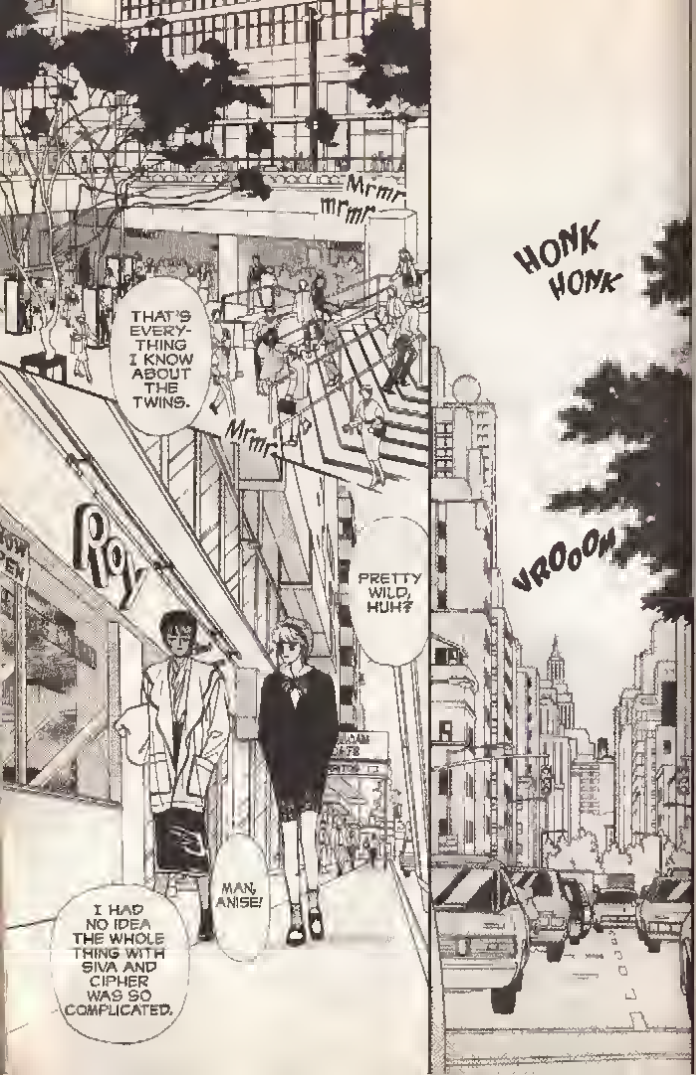
Volume 9

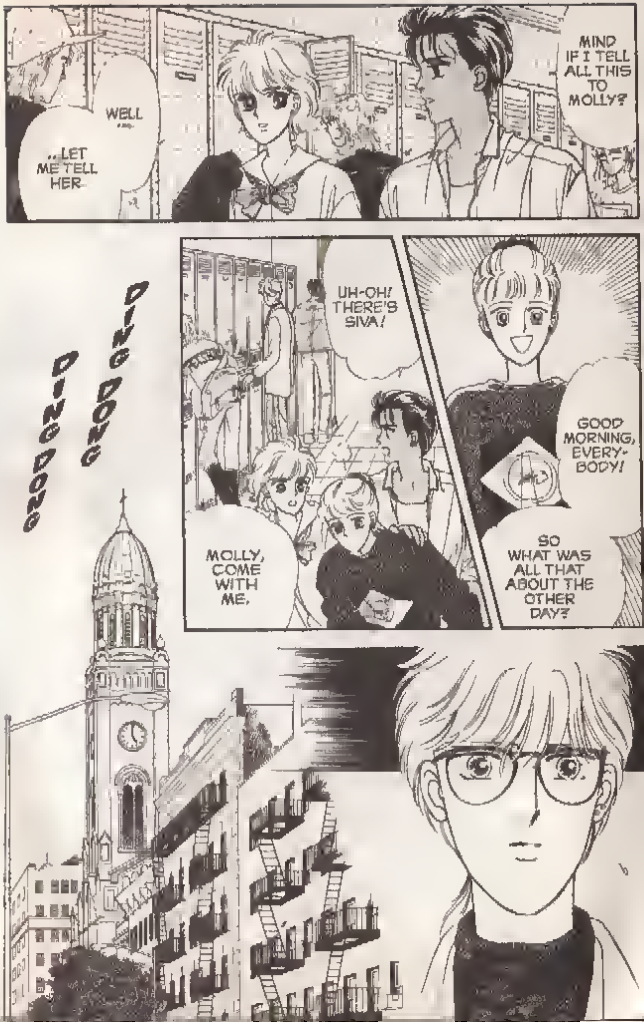
By Minako Narita

CIPHER

Scene11.RIPTIDE




THAT'S EVERY-THING I KNOW ABOUT THE TWINS.
Mrmr
mrmr
Mrmr
HONK HONK
VROOOM
PRETTY WILD, HUH?
MAN, ANISE!
I HAD NO IDEA THE WHOLE THING WITH SIVA AND CIPHER WAS SO COMPLICATED.


MIND IF I TELL ALL THIS TO MOLLY?
WELL ...LET ME TELL HER
DING DONG
DING DONG
UH-OH! THERE'S SIVA!
GOOD MORNING, EVERY-BODY!
MOLLY, COME WITH ME,
SO WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT THE OTHER DAY?

Caffè NAPOLI Espresso
Caffè NAPOLI
SO THAT'S THE SHORT VERSION, ANYWAY
BUT YOU CAN'T TELL ANY-BODY.
EVEN IF ANYBODY ELSE FIGURES IT OUT.
AND DEFINITELY DON'T TELL SIVA.

OH, C'MON, DON'T CRY.
.....
SURE.
I CAN'T HELP IT.
WHY...
IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT, AFTER ALL.
I WAS BAD, TOO.
TO ALEX, ANY-WAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
I'M STILL WORRIED ...
THAT SIVA ACTUALLY BLAMES HIMSELF SOME.
I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED NOW.
I SHOT OFF MY MOUTH AND TOLD SIVA "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT" THE OTHER DAY.
I feel awful.

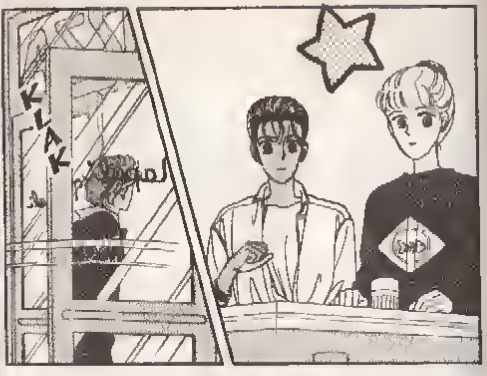
OH...
I FEEL LIKE A WITHERED PLANT...
...THAT'S GETTING FRESH WATER.
AND TO YOU GUYS, TOO...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
ANISE, PLEASE YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE, DUMMY.
HMM?
!!
BY THE WAY...
DIDN'T IT SEEM ALL DAY TODAY LIKE SIVA WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING?

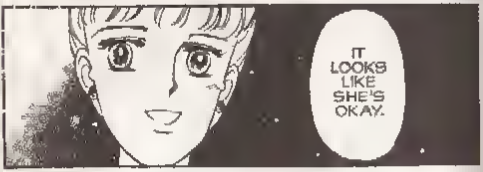
I BETTER GO FIND SIVA.
WHAT, RIGHT NOW?!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
SAY SOME-THING TO ME?
JUST OUT OF THE BLUE?
HEY! MAYBE ...
"MAYBE SKIPPING SCHOOL YESTERDAY HAS MADE THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE BETTER.
AND MAYBE HE THINKS THAT HE HAS TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU
VICTORY

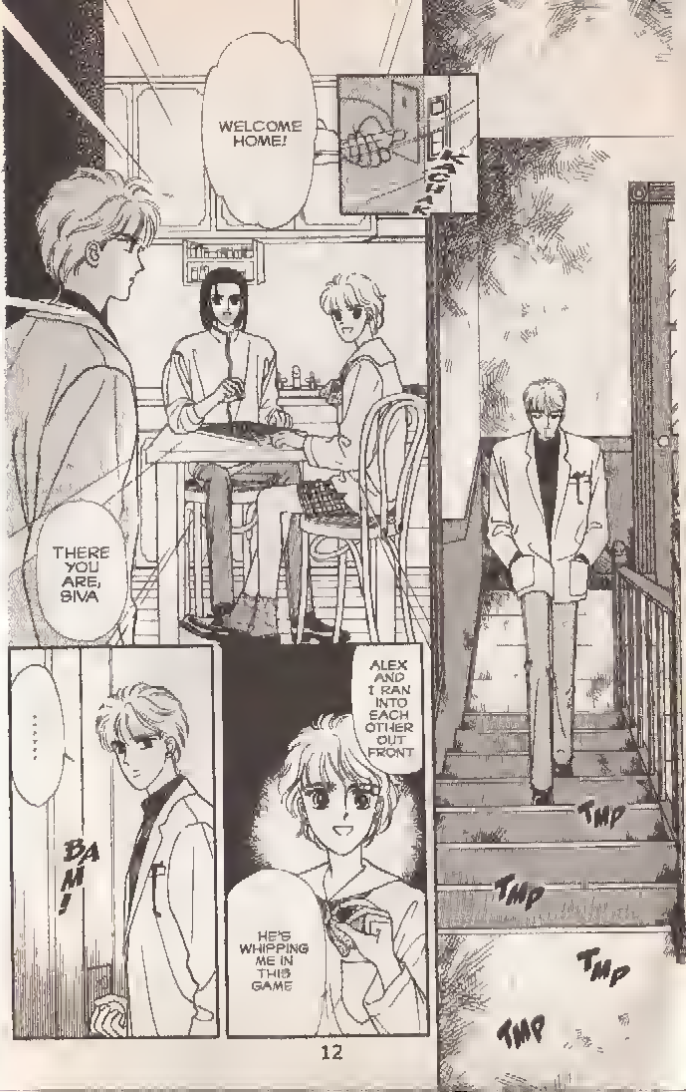
HERE'S A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN READ CHINESE:

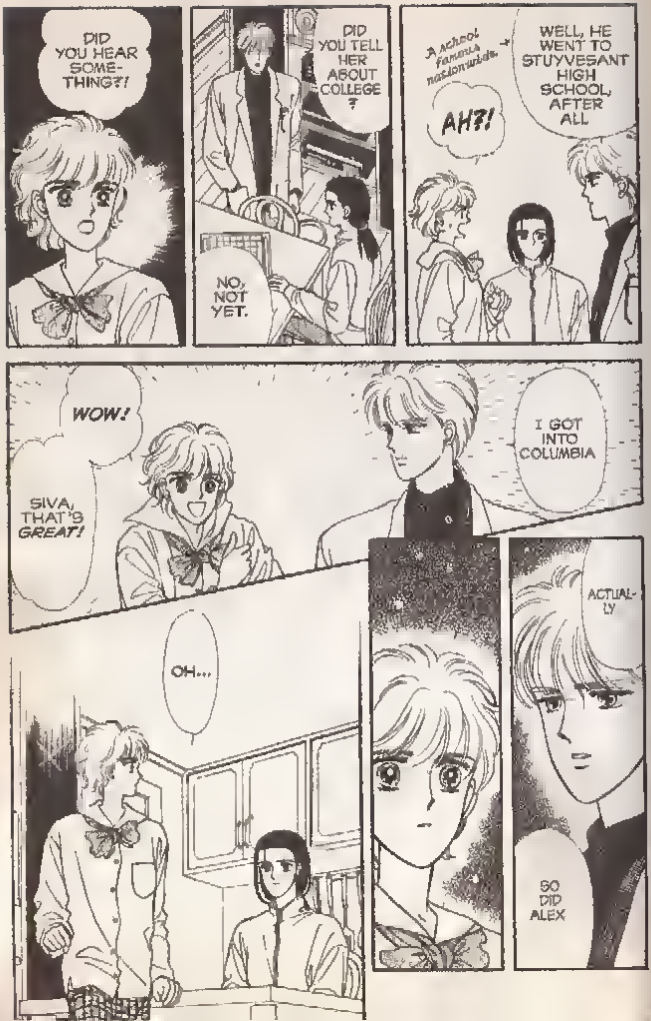
讀者們，您好！
謝謝你們支持
"青春密語(CIPHER)"。
我非常高興我的
漫畫也受多國家
讀者的歡迎。
"青春密語"不久就
結束，到時候我
一定盡力而為。
請你們拭目以待！

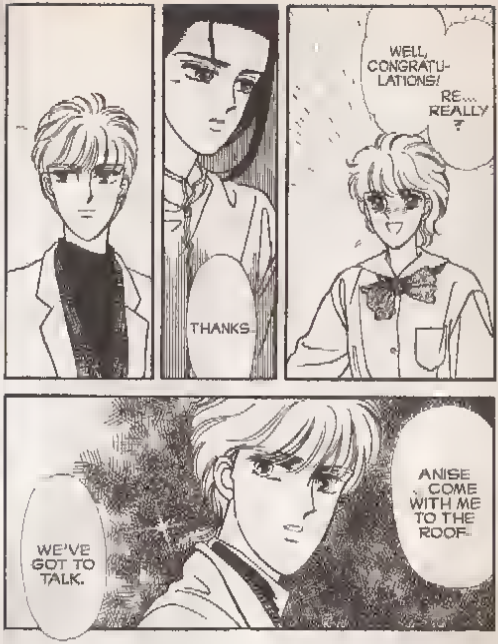
(ED NOTE: SEE TRANSLATION ON PAGE 167)



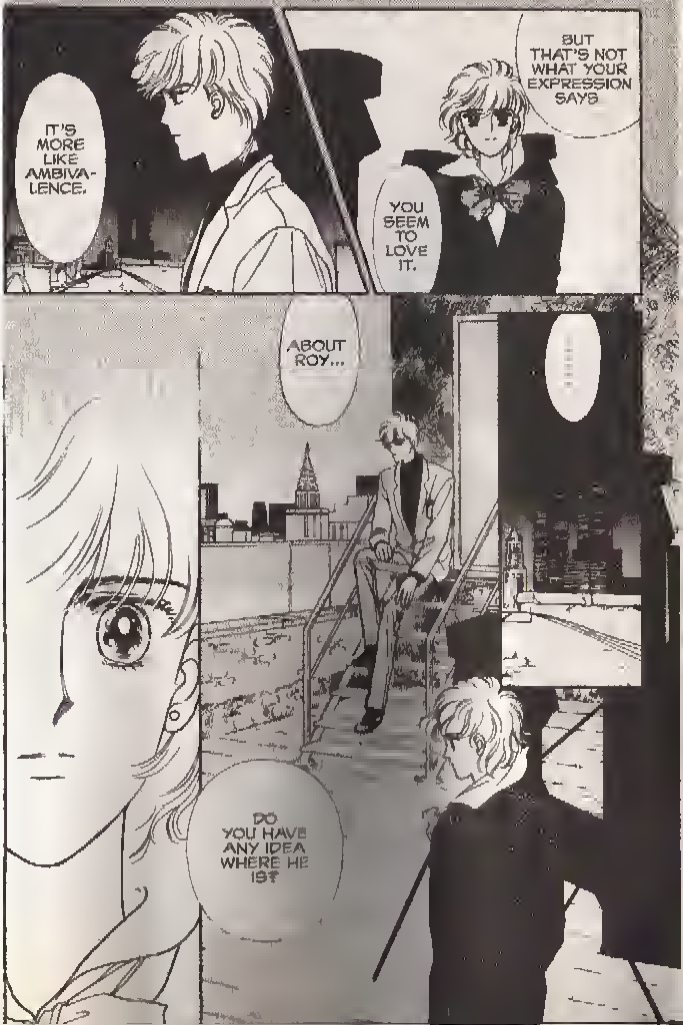



WELCOME HOME!
CLICK
THERE YOU ARE, SIVA
ALEX AND I RAN INTO EACH OTHER OUT FRONT
HE'S WHIPPING ME IN THIS GAME
.....
BAM!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP


DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?!
DID YOU TELL HER ABOUT COLLEGE ?
NO, NOT YET.
A school famous nationwide.
AH?!
WELL, HE WENT TO STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL, AFTER ALL
WOW!
I GOT INTO COLUMBIA
SIVA, THAT'S GREAT!
OH...
ACTUAL-LY
SO DID ALEX

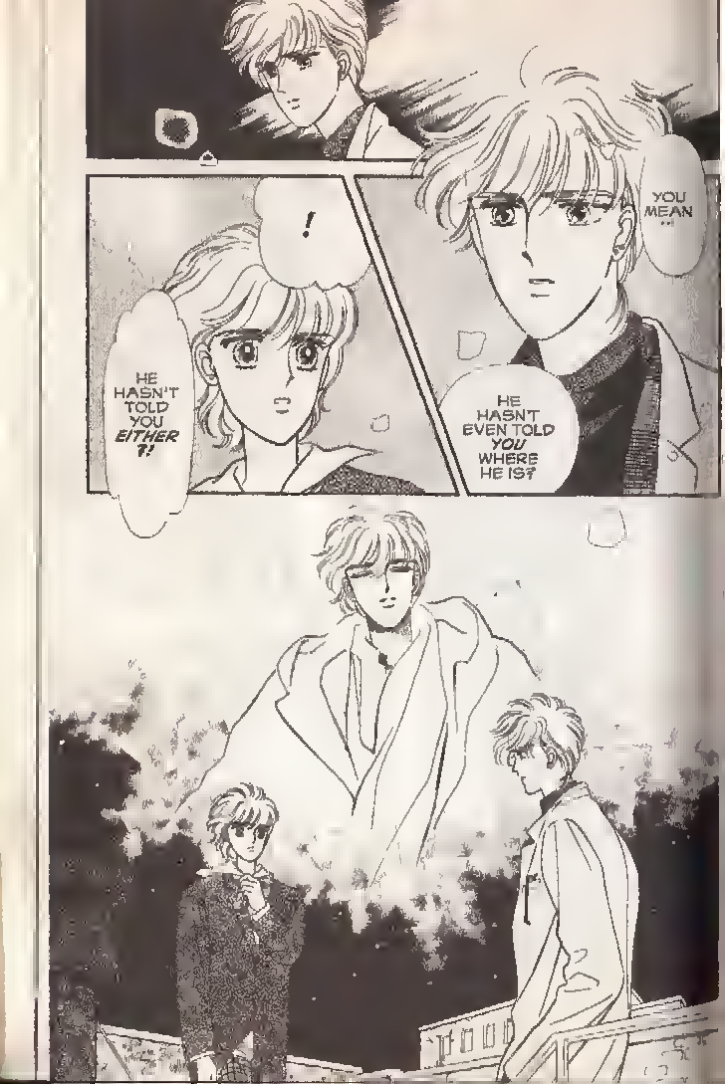

THANKS.
WELL, CONGRATU-LATIONS!
RE... REALLY?
ANISE COME WITH ME TO THE ROOF.
WE'VE GOT TO TALK.

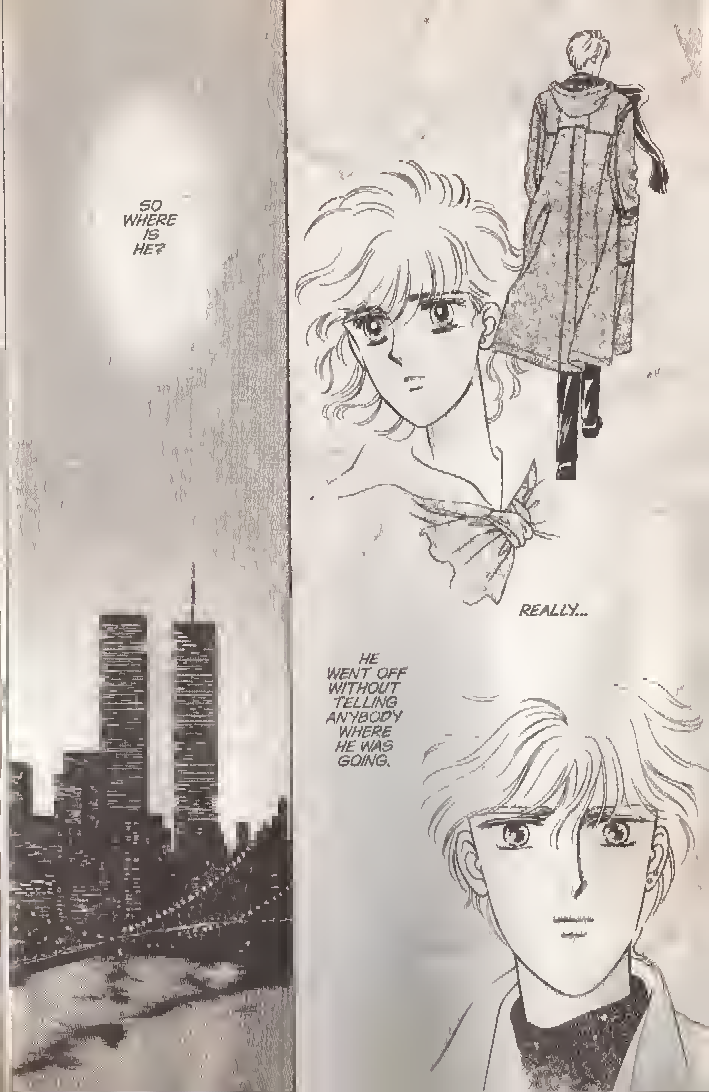
THIS TOWN LOOKS LIKE A GARBAGE DUMP.
...


BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR EXPRESSION SAYS
YOU SEEM TO LOVE IT.
IT'S MORE LIKE AMBIVA-LENCE.
ABOUT ROY...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE IS?

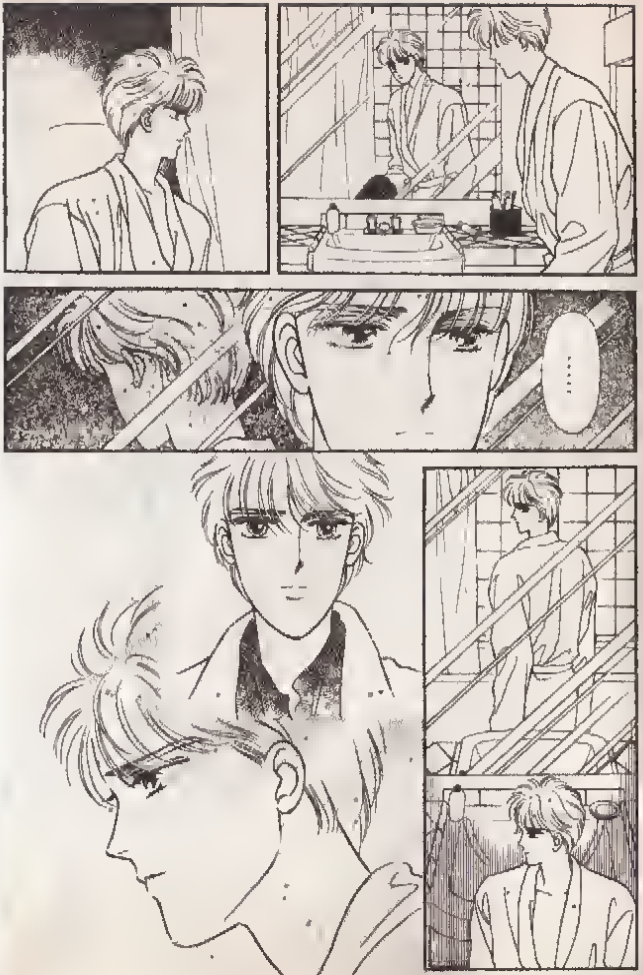
I ASSUME HE EVEN STOPPED CONTACTING YOU TOO, DIDN'T HE?
KNOWING HIS PERSONALITY...
WHY ARE YOU ASKING *ME* THAT?
WH-WHY...
DON'T LET ME HOLD YOU BACK.
GO FIND HIM.
DON'T *YOU* WANT TO SEE HIM?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIVA?

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
SIVA...
CIPHER IS BLAMING HIMSELF WAY MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE.
EVEN I DON'T...


YOU MEAN ...
HE HASN'T EVEN TOLD *YOU* WHERE HE IS?
!
HE HASN'T TOLD YOU *EITHER* ?!

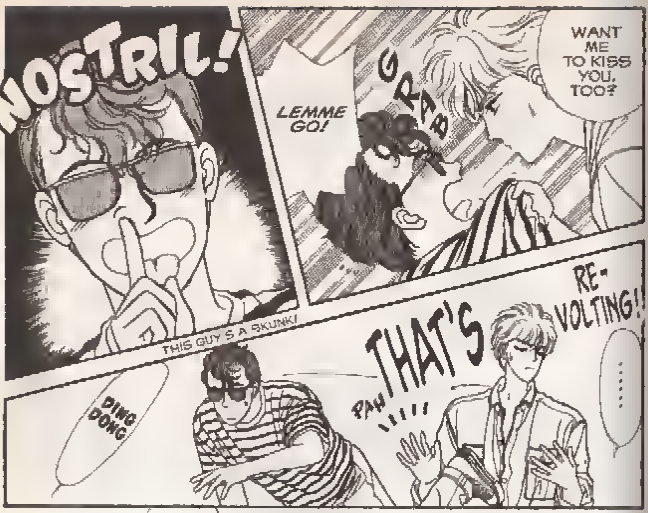

SO WHERE IS HE?
REALLY...
HE WENT OFF WITHOUT TELLING ANYBODY WHERE HE WAS GOING.

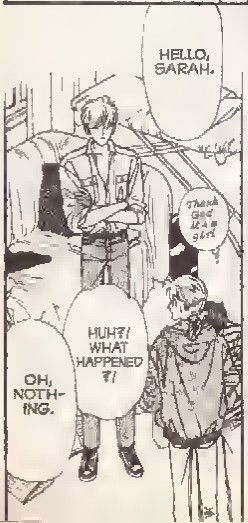
KLAK



SMACK
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

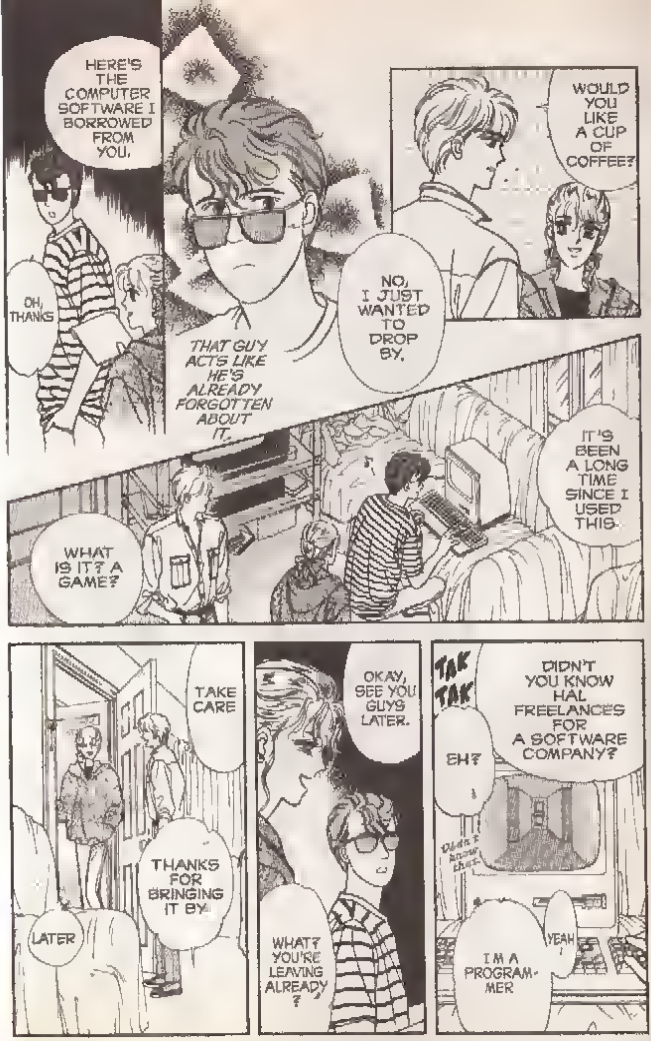
NARCIS-SIST
Got Attacked ya
GEEZ... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO MAD!
I WAS JUST SAYING GOOD MORNING TO SIVA.
WHAT, YOUR TWIN BROTHER?
YOU STILL KISS YOUR BROTHER AT THIS AGE?
PERVERT.


NOSTRIL!
THIS GUY'S A SKUNK!
LEMME GO!
GRAB
WANT ME TO KISS YOU, TOO?
DING DONG
PAH!!!!
THAT'S
RE-VOLTING!!
.....

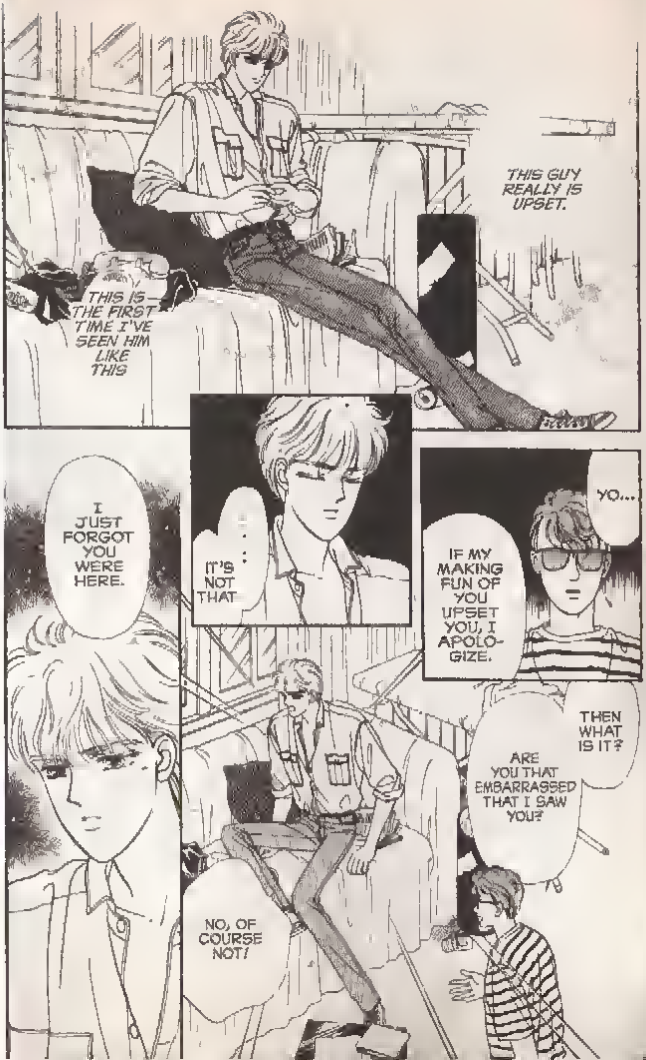

HELLO, SARAH.
Thank God it's a girl
HUH?! WHAT HAPPENED?!
OH, NOTHING.

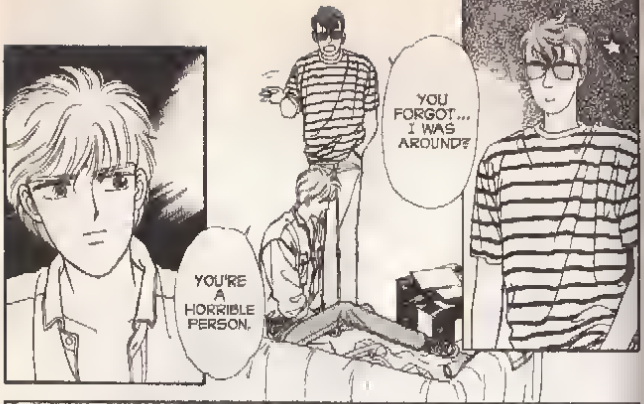
SARAH!
?!

HEY, GUYS!
SORRY TO DROP IN WHERE'S HAL?


HERE'S THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE I BORROWED FROM YOU.
OH, THANKS
THAT GUY ACTS LIKE HE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
NO, I JUST WANTED TO DROP BY.
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE?
WHAT IS IT? A GAME?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I USED THIS.
TAKE CARE
THANKS FOR BRINGING IT BY.
LATER
OKAY, SEE YOU GUYS LATER.
WHAT? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
TAK TAK
EH?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW HAL FREELANCES FOR A SOFTWARE COMPANY?
I'M A PROGRAM-MER
YEAH

HEY, ROY. YOU WANNA TRY THIS?
SLAM
BEEP
WHAT?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
SNORE
FWAP

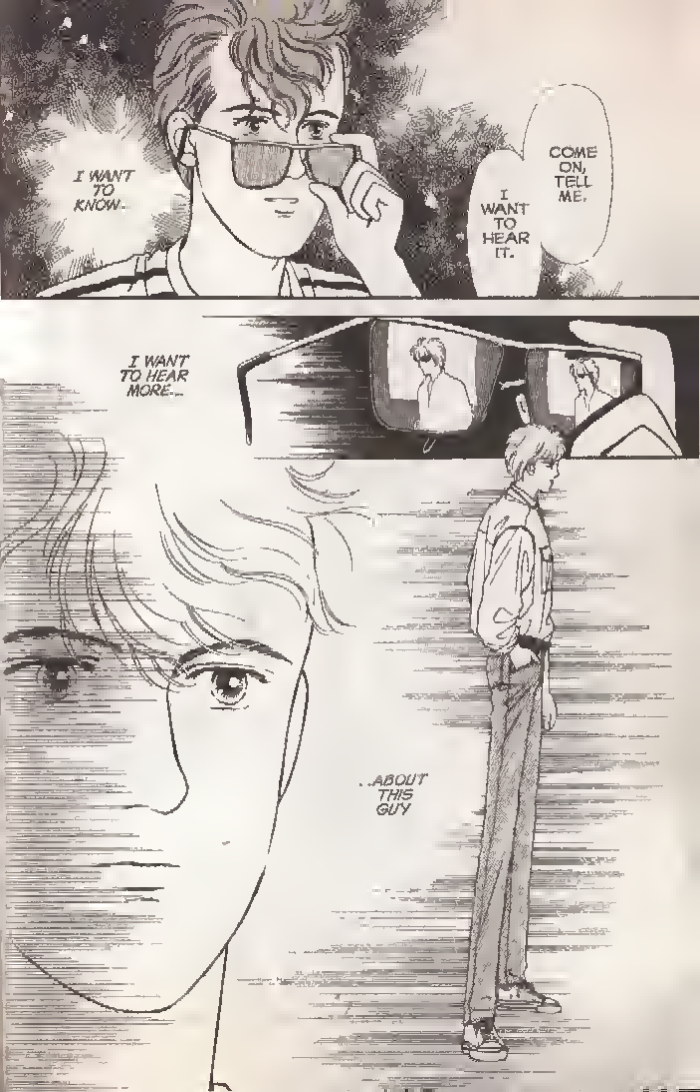

THIS GUY REALLY IS UPSET.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM LIKE THIS
YO...
IF MY MAKING FUN OF YOU UPSET YOU, I APOLOGIZE.
IT'S NOT THAT...
I JUST FORGOT YOU WERE HERE.
THEN WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU THAT EMBARRASSED THAT I SAW YOU?
NO, OF COURSE NOT!

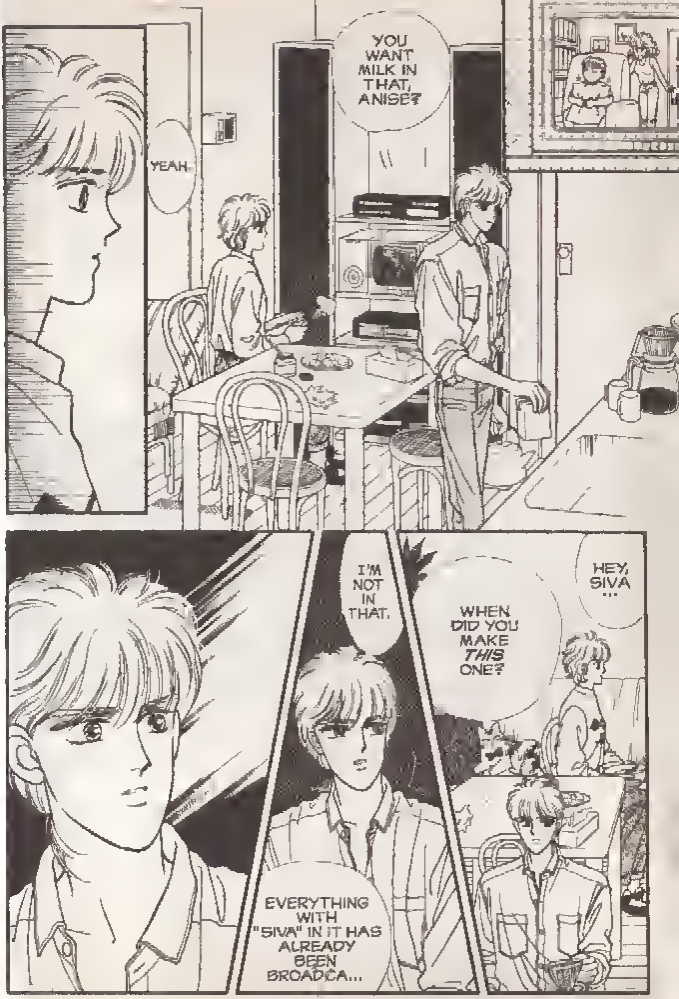

YOU'RE A HORRIBLE PERSON.
YOU FORGOT... I WAS AROUND?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU!
HA!, I'VE BEEN IN FRONT OF PEOPLE EVER SINCE I WAS TEN MONTHS OLD!
UNTIL NOW, I'VE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE CONSCIOUS OF OTHERS' GAZE!

WAIT... DON'T GET SO SERIOUS ..
YOU...
EVEN IN FRONT OF MY FAMILY ...
AND ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF JAKE
YEAH... I AM GETTING SERIOUS.
WHAT AM I DOING?

"DON'T LOOK AT ME!"
"YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE THOUGHTFUL, DUMMY!"
MAYBE...
HE'S LOST THE ABILITY TO MASK HIMSELF IN FRONT OF ME?
WHOA... HE'S GETTING SHY.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.


I WANT TO KNOW.
I WANT TO HEAR IT.
COME ON, TELL ME.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE...
...ABOUT THIS GUY


YEAH.
YOU WANT MILK IN THAT, ANISE?
HEY, SIVA ...
WHEN DID YOU MAKE THIS ONE?
I'M NOT IN THAT.
EVERYTHING WITH "SIVA" IN IT HAS ALREADY BEEN BROADCA...

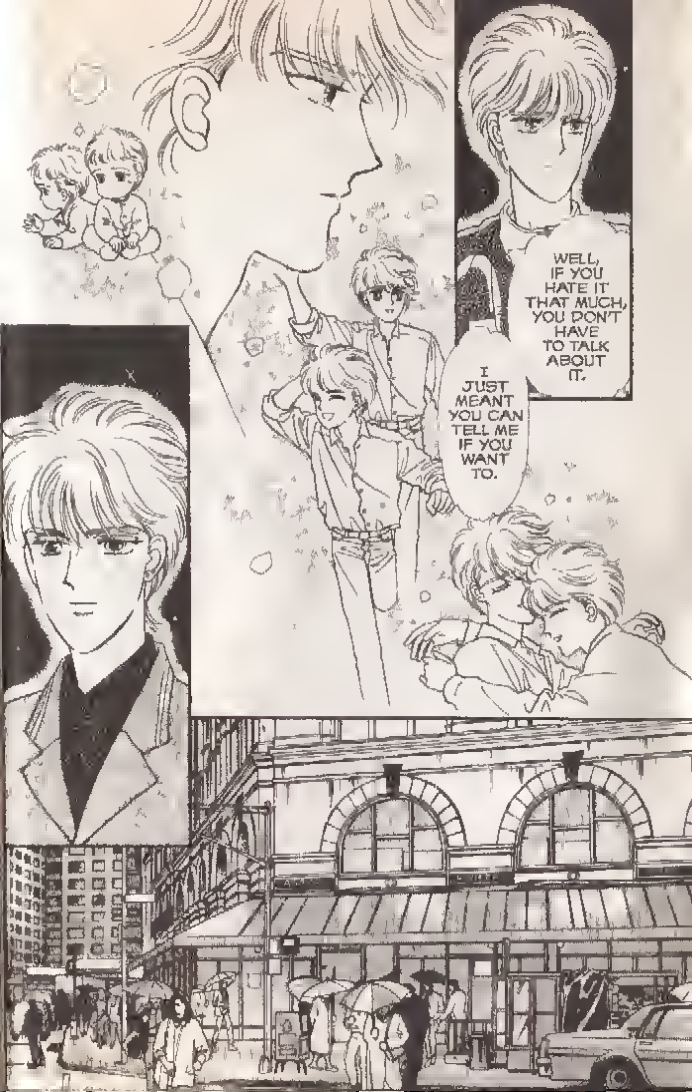
HE'S STILL WORKING.
CIPHER...
PEOPLE LIVING TOGETHER NEED RULES.

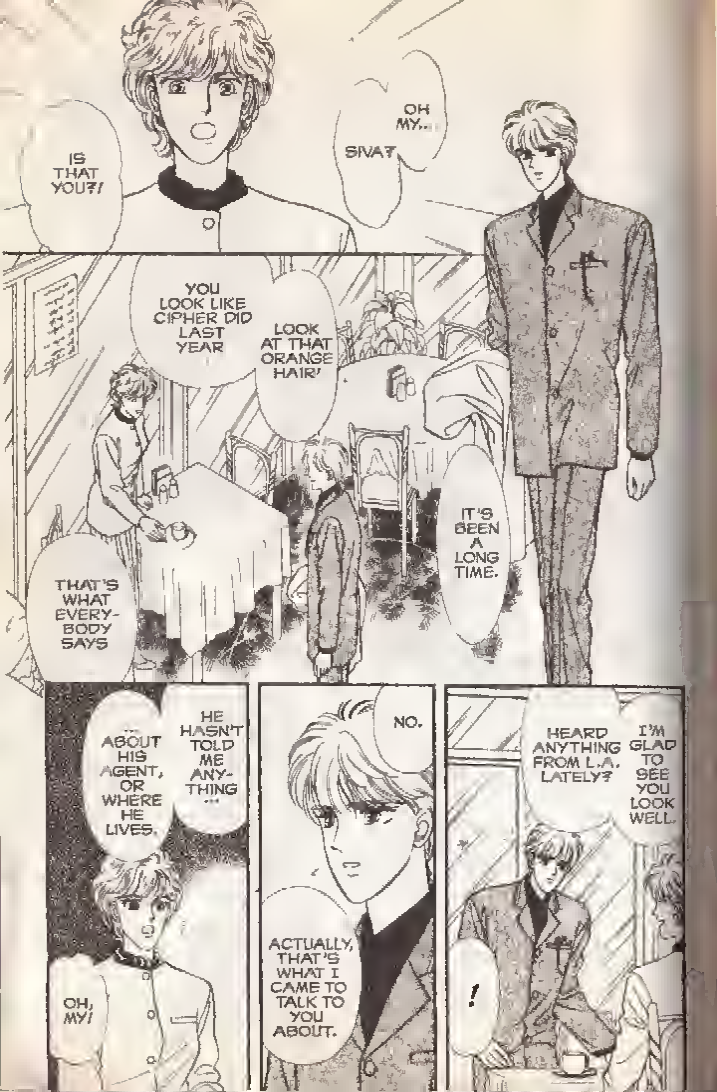
WE WENT THROUGH A LOT AT FIRST, BUT NOW I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM WITH THIS GUY
IT'S CLEAR WHAT IS HIS TERRITORY AND WHAT IS MINE.
IF HE'S GOING OUT WITH SOME PEOPLE I'M FRIENDS WITH, HE ALWAYS LETS ME KNOW.
IF I ASK HIM FOR SOMETHING, HE GIVES IT GLADLY. OR ELSE HE CLEARLY SAYS HE CAN'T
HE DOESN'T RELY ON ME TOO MUCH OR TAKE CARE OF ME TOO MUCH.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'D ONLY EVER LIVED WITH YOUR FAMILY RIGHT UP UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE MET.

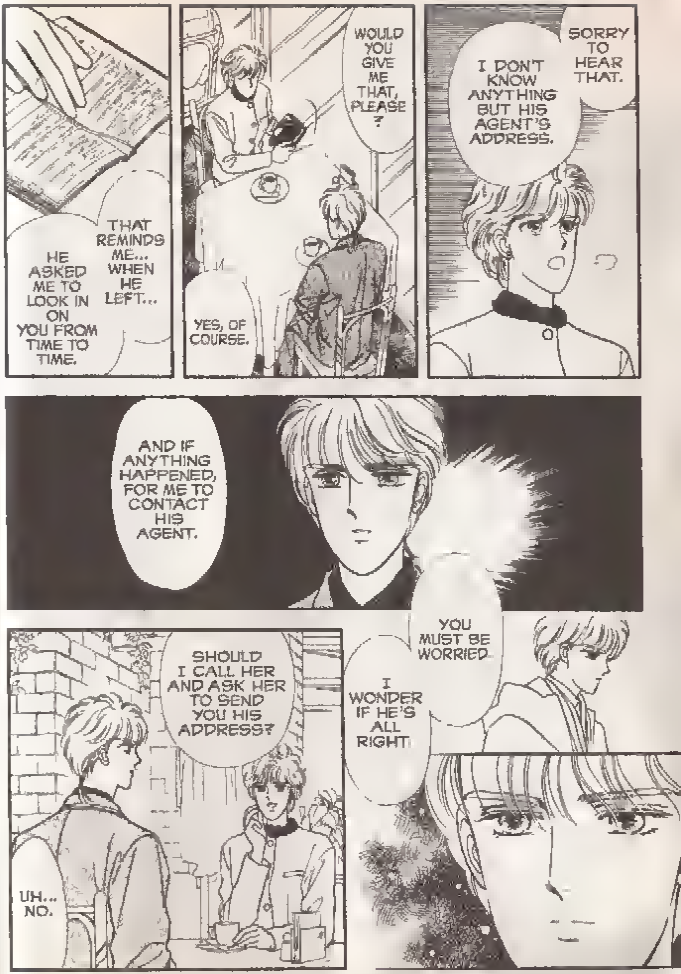
THE MOTHER OF CHILD ACTORS STICKS WITH THEM ALL THE TIME
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE NOT USUAL.
YEAH, I SUP-POSE.
USUALLY, NOBODY HAS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT THINGS AROUND THEIR FAMILY, RIGHT?
WE CONSCIOUSLY TAKE A POSE IN FRONT OF THEM MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
BUT FOR A CHILD, THEY'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT AUDIENCE
MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE OVER-PROTEC-TIVE...
IT SEEMS HE OUGHT TO BE YOUR ALLY.
AND YOUR BROTH-ER?

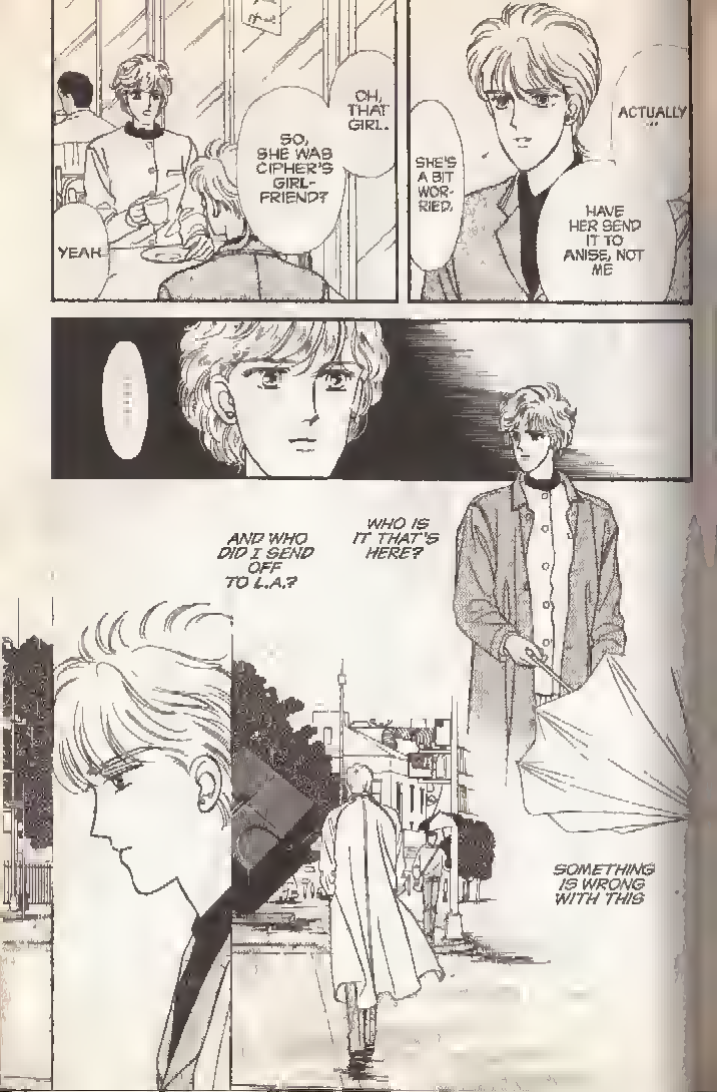
BUT HE WAS ALSO A RIVAL.
YEAH ... HE *WAS* AN ALLY.
NO, EVERY-THING.
WHAT, YOU MEAN ABOUT WORK?
JAKE WAS ALWAYS THE SUPERIOR STUDENT, AND THE PRIDE OF OUR PARENTS.
WHEN I'M WITH JAKE, I FEEL THE MOST STRESS.
I WANTED TO BE SEEN AS DIFFERENT FROM HIM.
BE-CAUSE WE WERE TWINS

IT'S OKAY... KEEP TALKING.
GO ON.
YOU LOOK STUPID LIKE A CHILD HAVING A TANTRUM.
HEY...
WHY?
HUH?
THIS IS BORING, ISN'T IT?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ME?
UH!
NO REASON, REALLY...
CHEE
WHY? WELL... UH...I MEAN...

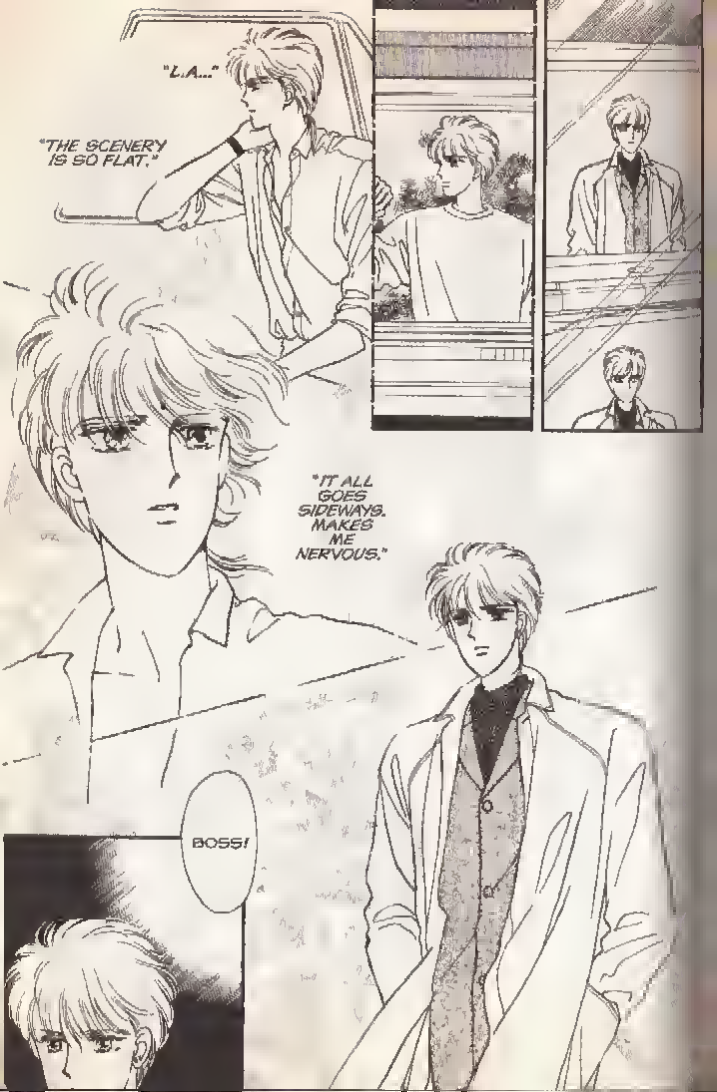

WELL, IF YOU HATE IT THAT MUCH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I JUST MEANT YOU CAN TELL ME IF YOU WANT TO.

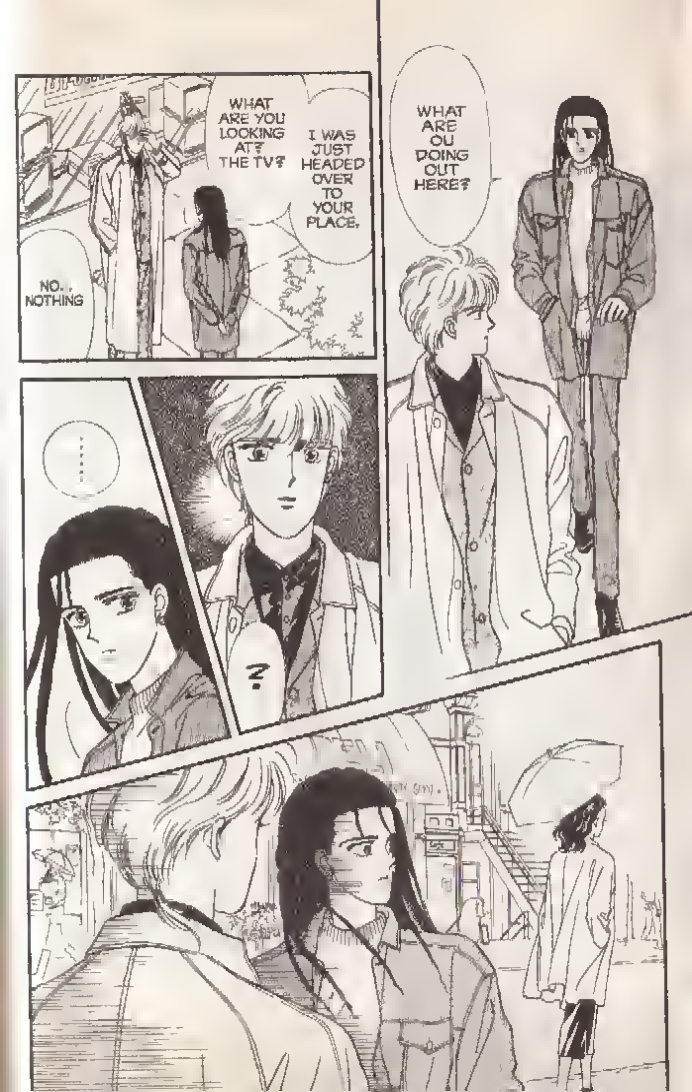

IS THAT YOU?!
OH MY..
SIVA?
YOU LOOK LIKE CIPHER DID LAST YEAR
LOOK AT THAT ORANGE HAIR!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
THAT'S WHAT EVERY-BODY SAYS
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU LOOK WELL.
HEARD ANYTHING FROM L.A. LATELY?
!
NO.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
HE HASN'T TOLD ME ANY-THING ...
... ABOUT HIS AGENT, OR WHERE HE LIVES.
OH, MY!

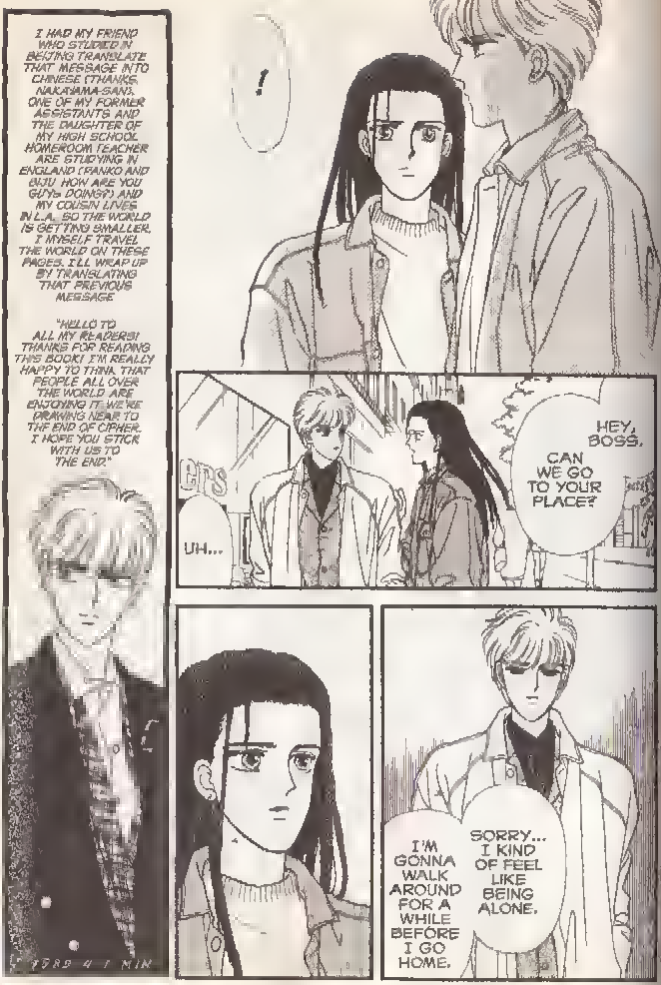

HE ASKED ME TO LOOK IN ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME.
THAT REMINDS ME... WHEN HE LEFT...
WOULD YOU GIVE ME THAT, PLEASE?
YES, OF COURSE.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING BUT HIS AGENT'S ADDRESS.
SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, FOR ME TO CONTACT HIS AGENT.
SHOULD I CALL HER AND ASK HER TO SEND YOU HIS ADDRESS?
UH... NO.
I WONDER IF HE'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU MUST BE WORRIED.


YEAH.
SO, SHE WAS CIPHER'S GIRL-FRIEND?
OH, THAT GIRL.
SHE'S A BIT WOR-RIED.
ACTUALLY...
HAVE HER SEND IT TO ANISE, NOT ME
AND WHO DID I SEND OFF TO L.A.?
WHO IS IT THAT'S HERE?
SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THIS

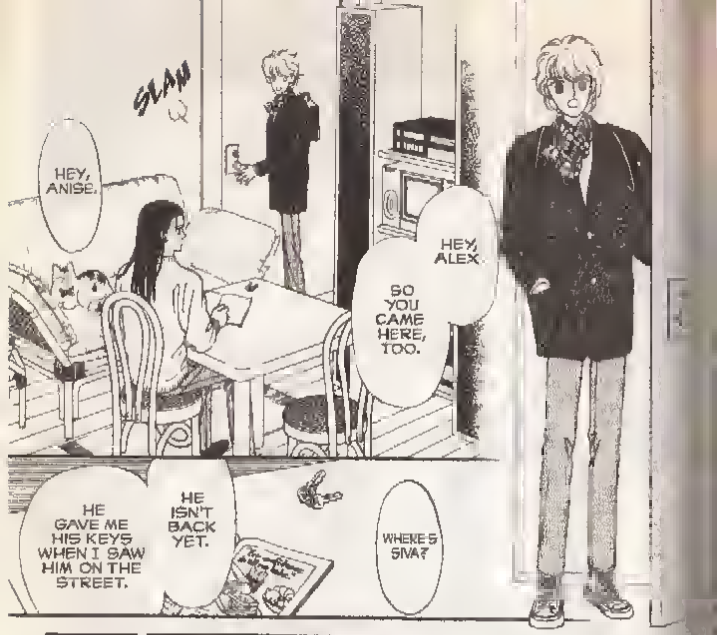
BLINK
"HE ASKED ME TO LOOK IN ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME."
Brothers
CAMERAS ELECTRONICS
AH.
"THAT'S AN IMAGE OF ME.


"L.A..."
"THE SCENERY IS SO FLAT."
"IT ALL GOES SIDEWAYS. MAKES ME NERVOUS."
BOSS!

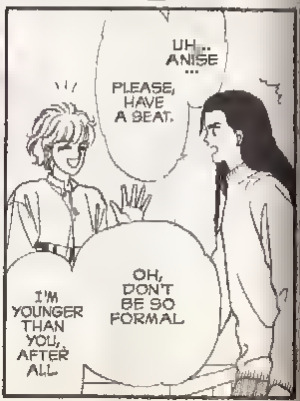

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? THE TV?
I WAS JUST HEADED OVER TO YOUR PLACE.
NO.. NOTHING
.....
?

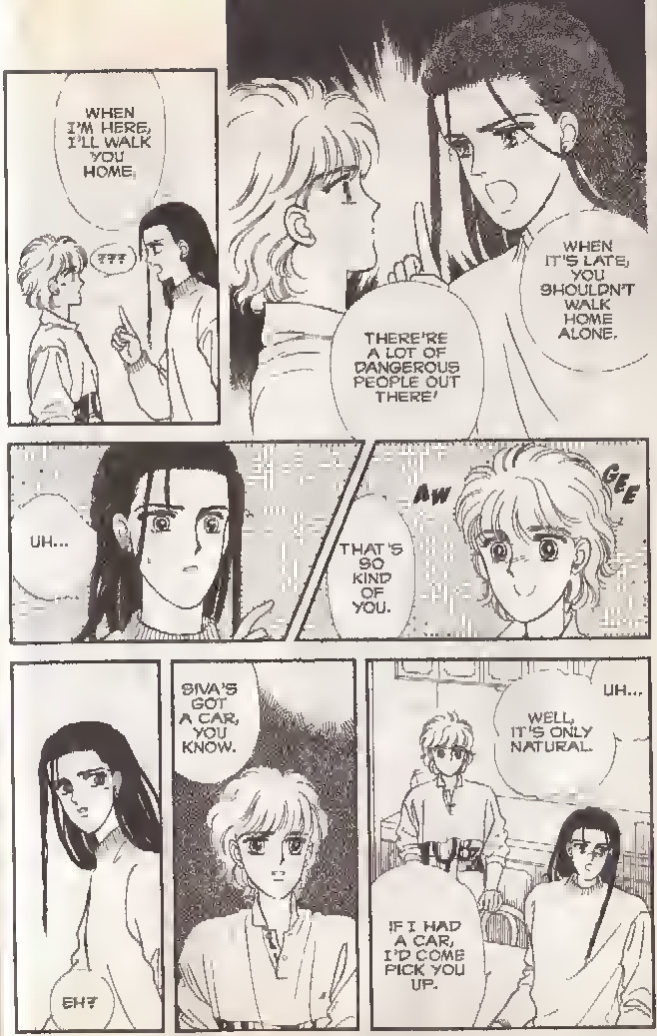

I HAD MY FRIEND WHO STUDIED IN BEIJING TRANSLATE THAT MESSAGE INTO CHINESE (THANKS, NAKAYAMA-SAN!). ONE OF MY FORMER ASSISTANTS AND THE DAUGHTER OF MY HIGH SCHOOL HOMEROOM TEACHER ARE STUDYING IN ENGLAND (KANKO AND GIJU. HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?) AND MY COUSIN LIVES IN L.A., SO THE WORLD IS GETTING SMALLER. I MYSELF TRAVEL THE WORLD ON THESE PAGES. I'LL WRAP UP BY TRANSLATING THAT PREVIOUS MESSAGE.
"HELLO TO ALL MY READERS! THANKS FOR READING THIS BOOK! I'M REALLY HAPPY TO THINK THAT PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE ENJOYING IT. WE'RE DRAWING NEAR TO THE END OF CIPHER. I HOPE YOU STICK WITH US TO THE END."
!
HEY, BOSS, CAN WE GO TO YOUR PLACE?
UH...
I'M GONNA WALK AROUND FOR A WHILE BEFORE I GO HOME.
SORRY... I KIND OF FEEL LIKE BEING ALONE.

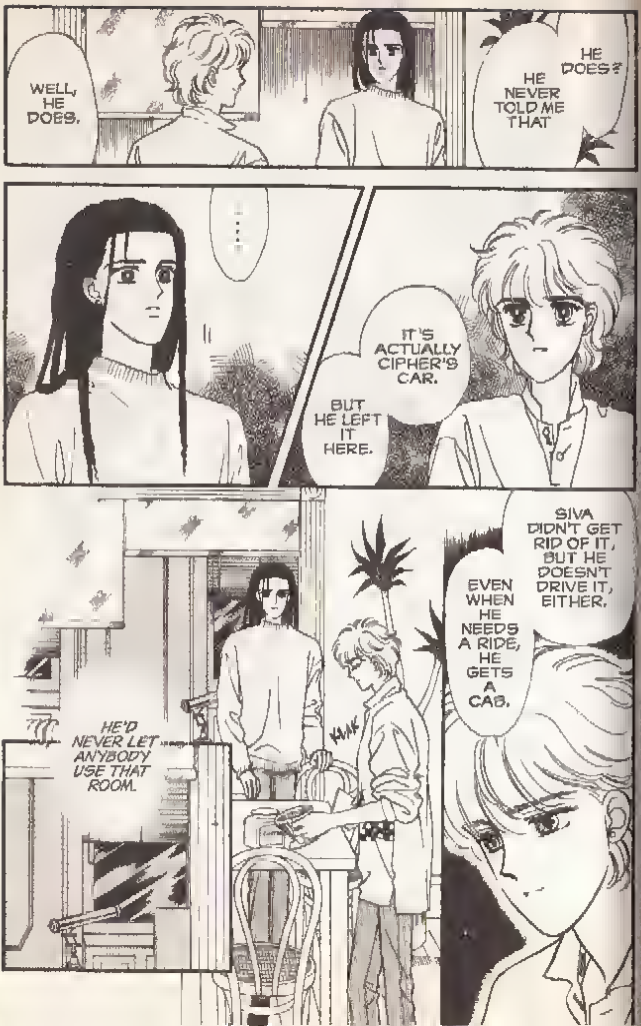
SURE
COME BACK SOON, OKAY?
OKAY... I'LL WAIT AT THE APART-MENT.
LET YOURSELF IN AND WAIT FOR ME.
CHINK
. . .

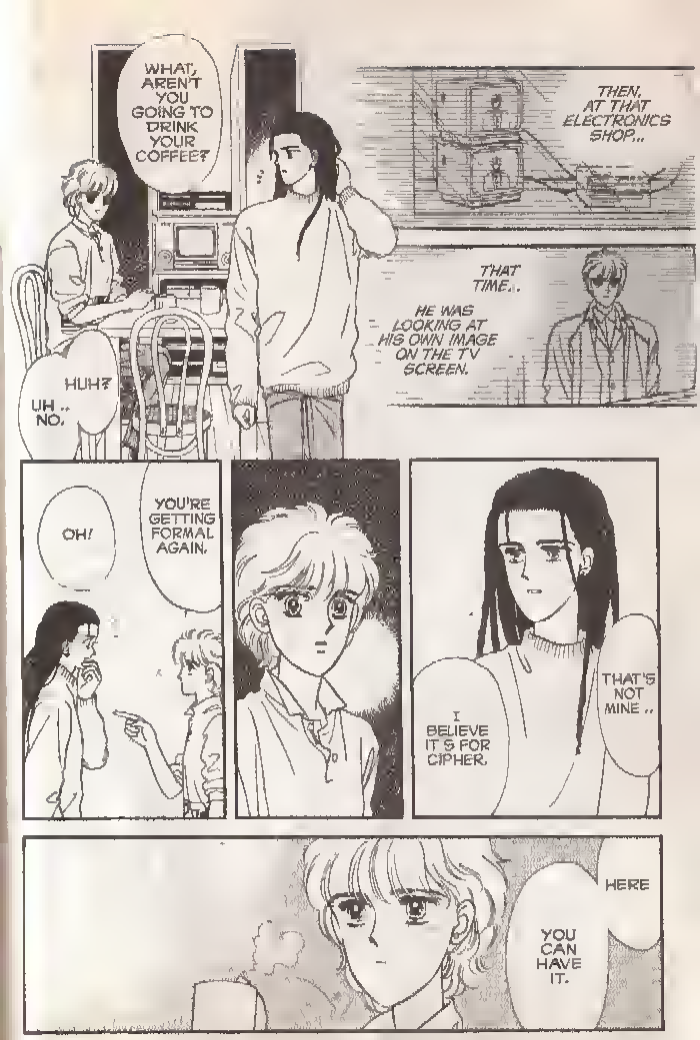

SLAM
HEY, ANISE.
HEY, ALEX.
SO YOU CAME HERE, TOO.
HE GAVE ME HIS KEYS WHEN I SAW HIM ON THE STREET.
HE ISN'T BACK YET.
WHERE'S SIVA?

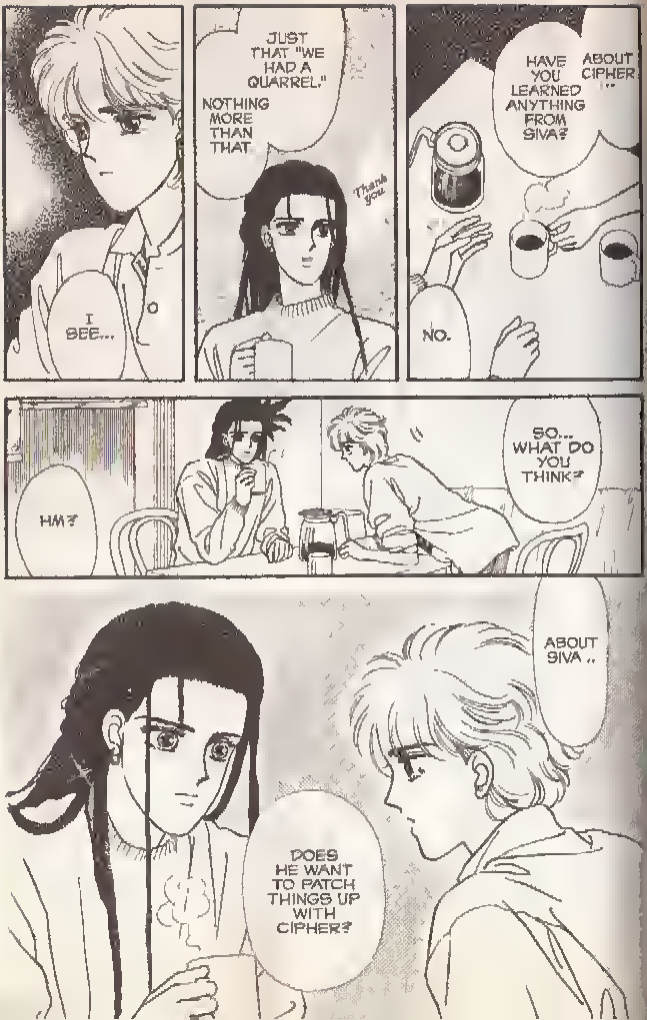
ANISE!
YES?

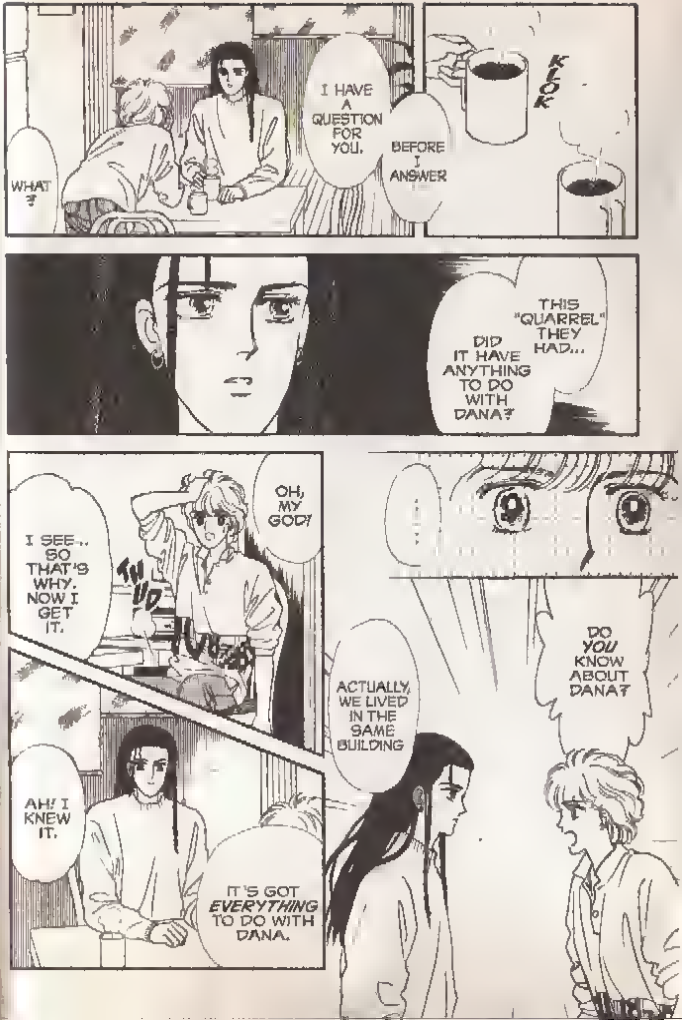

UH... ANISE ...
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU, AFTER ALL.
OH, DON'T BE SO FORMAL.

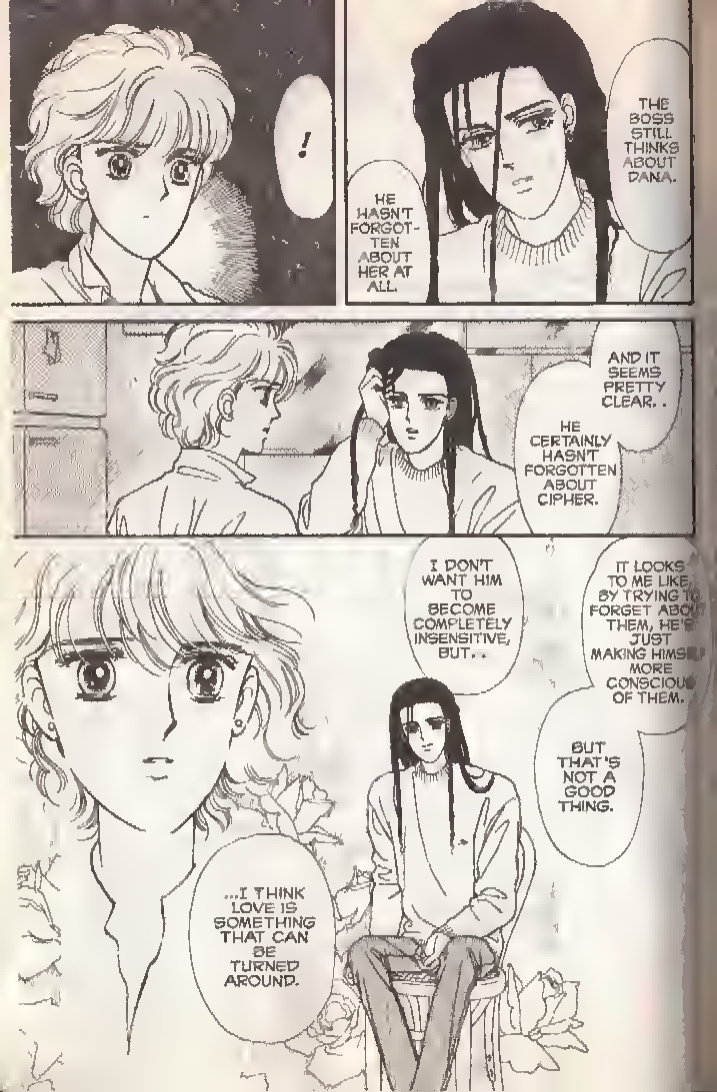

WHEN I'M HERE, I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
???
THERE'RE A LOT OF DANGEROUS PEOPLE OUT THERE!
WHEN IT'S LATE, YOU SHOULDN'T WALK HOME ALONE.
UH...
THAT'S SO KIND OF YOU.
AW
GEE
EH?
SIVA'S GOT A CAR, YOU KNOW.
UH...
WELL, IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
IF I HAD A CAR, I'D COME PICK YOU UP.

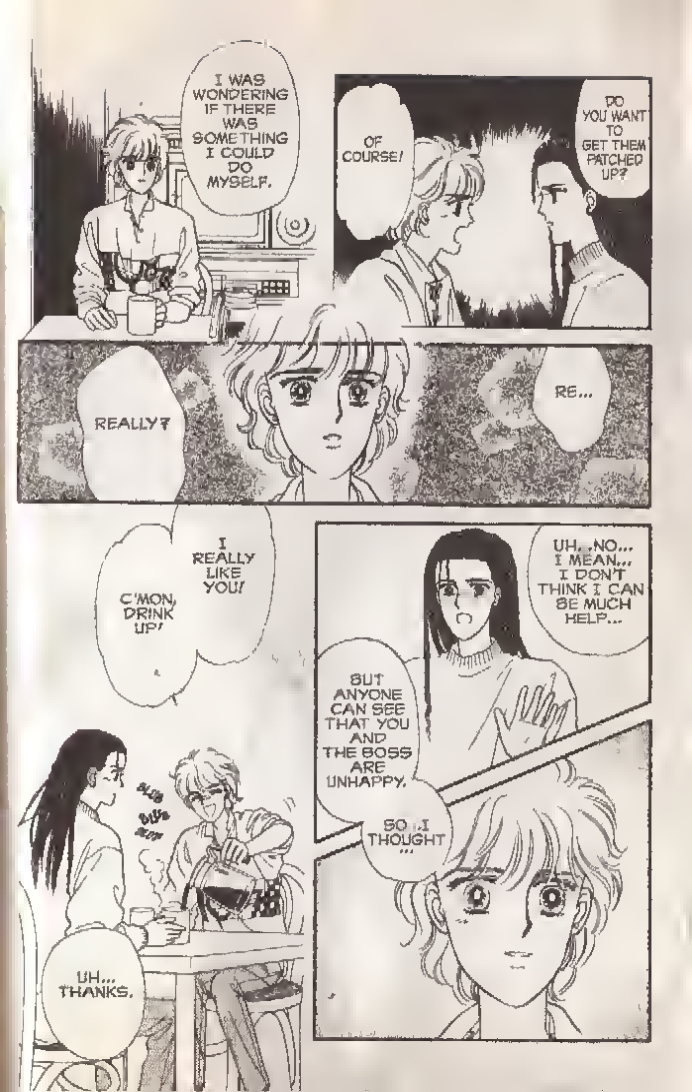

WELL, HE DOES.
HE DOES?
HE NEVER TOLD ME THAT
. . . .
IT'S ACTUALLY CIPHER'S CAR.
BUT HE LEFT IT HERE.
SIVA DIDN'T GET RID OF IT, BUT HE DOESN'T DRIVE IT, EITHER.
EVEN WHEN HE NEEDS A RIDE, HE GETS A CAB.
KNOCK
HE'D NEVER LET ANYBODY USE THAT ROOM.

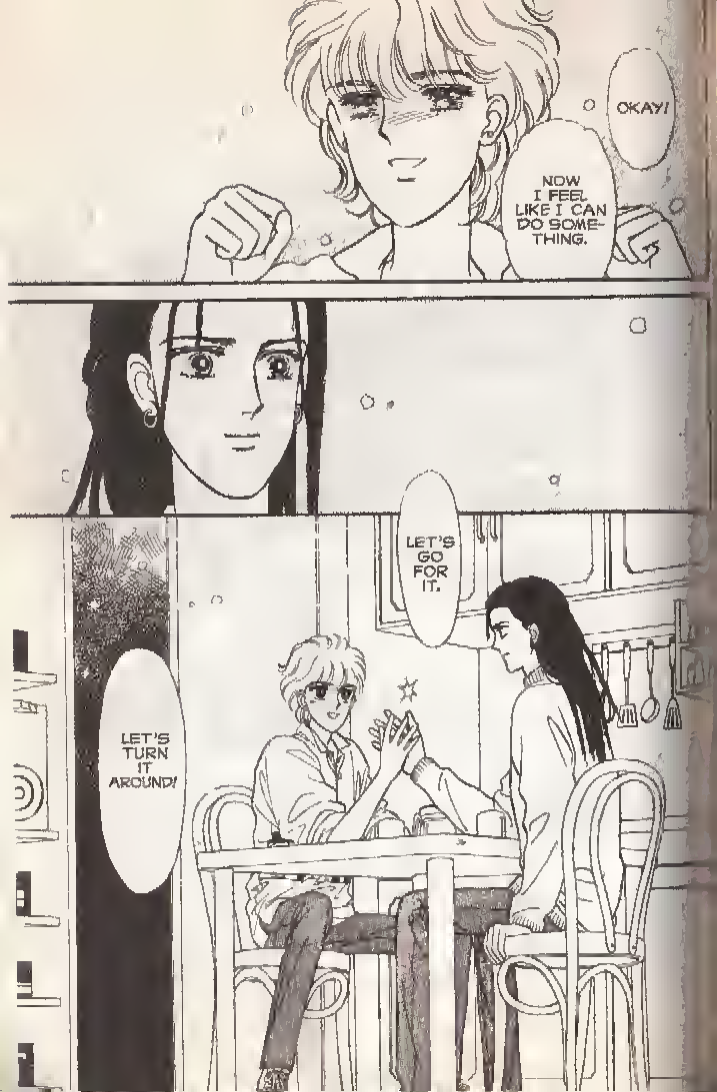

WHAT, AREN'T YOU GOING TO DRINK YOUR COFFEE?
HUH?
UH .. NO.
THEN, AT THAT ELECTRONICS SHOP...
THAT TIME..
HE WAS LOOKING AT HIS OWN IMAGE ON THE TV SCREEN.
OH!
YOU'RE GETTING FORMAL AGAIN.
I BELIEVE IT'S FOR CIPHER.
THAT'S NOT MINE ..
HERE
YOU CAN HAVE IT.


I SEE...
JUST THAT "WE HAD A QUARREL." NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.
Thank you.
HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM SIVA?
ABOUT CIPHER..
NO.
HM?
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DOES HE WANT TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH CIPHER?
ABOUT SIVA..

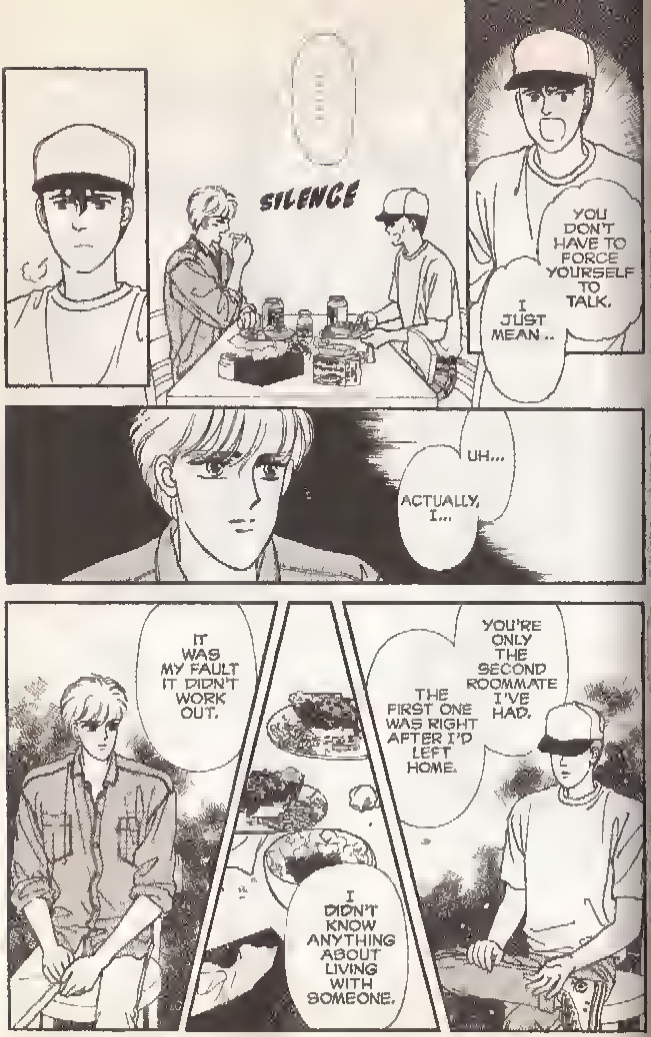

WHAT?
I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
BEFORE I ANSWER
KLOK
THIS "QUARREL" THEY HAD... DID IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH DANA?
OH, MY GOD!
I SEE.. SO THAT'S WHY. NOW I GET IT.
AH! I KNEW IT.
IT'S GOT *EVERYTHING* TO DO WITH DANA.
ACTUALLY, WE LIVED IN THE SAME BUILDING
DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT DANA?


!
HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER AT ALL.
THE BOSS STILL THINKS ABOUT DANA.
AND IT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR..
HE CERTAINLY HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT CIPHER.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BECOME COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE, BUT..
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE, BY TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT THEM, HE'S JUST MAKING HIMSELF MORE CONSCIOUS OF THEM.
BUT THAT'S NOT A GOOD THING.
...I THINK LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE TURNED AROUND.

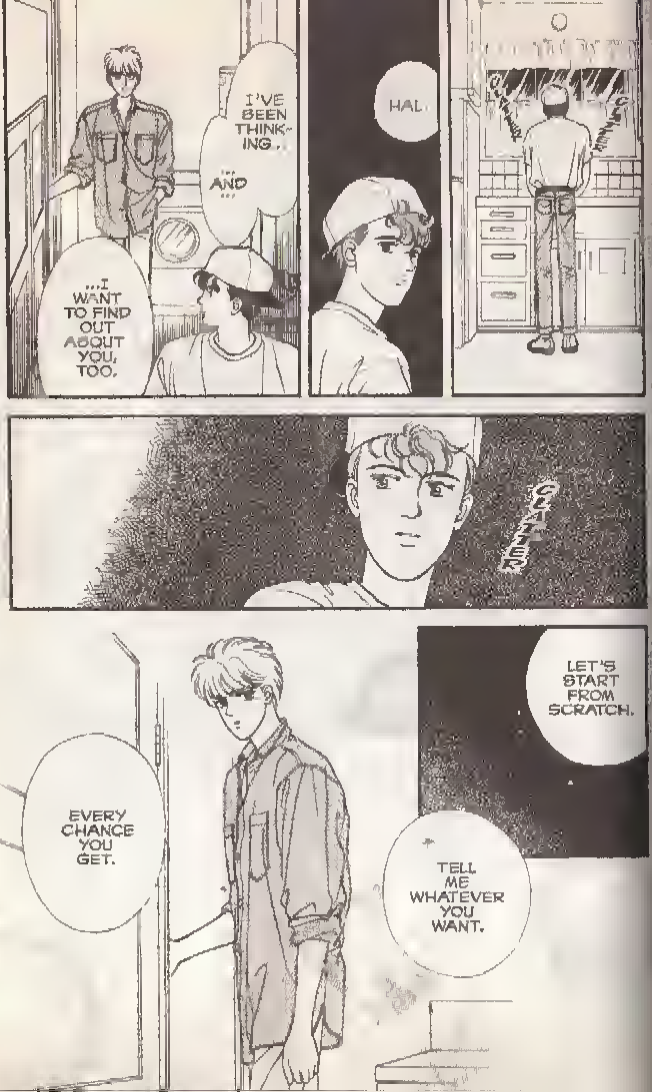

I WAS WONDERING IF THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO MYSELF.
DO YOU WANT TO GET THEM PATCHED UP?
OF COURSE!
REALLY?
RE...
UH...NO... I MEAN... I DON'T THINK I CAN BE MUCH HELP...
BUT ANYONE CAN SEE THAT YOU AND THE BOSS ARE UNHAPPY.
SO...I THOUGHT...
I REALLY LIKE YOU!
C'MON, DRINK UP!
GLUG GLUG GLUG
UH... THANKS.


OKAY!
NOW I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO SOME-THING.
LET'S GO FOR IT.
LET'S TURN IT AROUND!

PIT
PASS ME THE CHILI SAUCE.
HOW COME...
...YOU'RE SO QUIET TODAY?
MUNCH MUNCH


SILENCE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TALK.
I JUST MEAN..
UH...
ACTUALLY, I...
IT WAS MY FAULT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LIVING WITH SOMEONE.
THE FIRST ONE WAS RIGHT AFTER I'D LEFT HOME.
YOU'RE ONLY THE SECOND ROOMMATE I'VE HAD.

UH...
I MEAN... UM.
BUT THINGS WITH YOU HAVE GONE WAY BETTER THAN IMAGINED.
I WAS AFRAID THIS ONE WOULDN'T WORK OUT EITHER.
BLUSH
HEY...
JUST NOW...
THAT WAS HIM ANSWERING MY QUESTION ABOUT WHY HE WANTED TO HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ME.
CLATTER
CLATTER
AH...
I'M GLAD ABOUT IT.
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING!


I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
...AND...
...I WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU, TOO.
HA!
CLICK
CLICK
CLATTER
LET'S START FROM SCRATCH.
TELL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT.
EVERY CHANCE YOU GET.

HMM...
SLAM
Cipher Chapter 9 END